



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

To: AArk Steering Committee and colleagues
From: AArk Staff
Subject: AArk monthly activity report for December 2008
Date: 9 January 2008

*Note: these reports document efforts that are underway; people seeking additional information should contact [Kevin Z](#).
These monthly reports are now archived [online](#).*

General updates from the amphibian community

News/Publications

- [Global *Bd* Banking Project](#) initiated – please send your samples!
- [First record of chytridiomycosis in Bolivia](#)
- [Survival of the amphibian chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* on bare hands and gloves: hygiene implications for amphibian handling](#)
- [Amphibian commerce as a likely source of pathogen pollution](#)
- [Aussie scientists use toxic mash to turn predators off toads](#)
- [The number of endangered amphibians in Peru may be underestimated](#)
- [California frog species reduced by over 80% in 90 years due to introduced species, climate change, disease, and pollution.](#)
- [George Rabb honored with name of new Panamanian frog](#)
- [200 acres of critical amphibian habitat in Colombia protected by IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group, IUCN Netherlands, Dendrobatidae Nederland, Conservation International-Colombia and Fundación ProAves.](#)
- [Court order by California Superior Court Judge temporarily bans stocking nonnative fish in any fresh water body where surveys have demonstrated the presence of 25 specified amphibian or fish species or where a survey for those species has not yet been done.](#)
- [A Conservation Strategy for the Amphibians of Madagascar \(ACSAM\) final volume available online](#)

Funding available

- Ron, Jenny Pramuk, and Kevin Z designing AArk Seed Grant program and looking for matching sponsors; proposal submitted to AArk Executive Committee
- ASG calls for [proposals](#) for up to \$30,000 matching funds for critical habitat protection, no deadline
- Columbus Zoo continuously accepts applications for grants and emergency grants and has a strong record of supporting amphibian conservation work. For more information, contact [Rebecca Rose](#), Field Conservation Coordinator.
- Emergency funds are also available through [Memphis Zoo](#) and [Disney](#).
- Other grant opportunities are described in Appendix 3 of [AZA Amphibian Resource Manual](#).

Funding needed

- For species rescues in eastern Panama ([Houston budget proposal](#))

Amphibian Ark is a partnership between the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), and IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG).

- [Funding/volunteers needed for expeditions to assess sites of past decline in Costa Rica and Panama](#)
- [For AArk officer support](#)
- For species prioritization workshops in China, Indonesia, India, PNG, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Cuba, Philippines, Cameroon, Honduras, Tanzania, Haiti, D.R. Congo, Jamaica, Chile, Japan, Bolivia, Argentina.
- For husbandry workshops in Peru, China, Indonesia, Chile.
- Other partnership opportunities are available in [Latin America](#) and [Asia](#).

Vacancies

- Zoological Society of San Diego seeks [post-doc](#) in amphibian pathology and molecular diagnostics
- L'Université de Montréal seeks a student to realize an [M. Sc. in biology](#) dealing with the effects of an invasive plant on amphibian diversity and reproduction
- Cornell seeks [post-doc](#) in evolution of amphibian immunity

CURRENT

AArk Coordination

- Kevin Z, Ron, Joe, George, other associates attended NCSE meeting in Washington DC to help organize request for government funding. Joe, George, and Karen Lips were able to meet with Obama's Senior Policy Advisor on the Environment (an election-team and transition-team position, not a Cabinet position) to discuss amphibian issues, and he agreed to guide them in drafting a document to raise awareness within the new administration.
- Kevin Z providing information on *ex situ* programs for "Workshop to prepare *ex-situ* and *in-situ* Conservation Action Plan for the Amphibians" in India in January.
- AArk strategic planning meeting set for 17 March in Al Ain, UAE; more details to follow.
- Kevin Z working with AZA to plan distribution of the free bleach from Clorox, which, unfortunately, it turns out can only be given out in the US.

Taxon Survival Efforts

- Taxon prioritization workshops planned for:
 - Indonesia in early 2009
 - Brazil likely in March 2009 (with support from ZSL, NABT)
 - Cameroon in April 2009
 - Sri Lanka in August 2009
- Completed versions of the prioritization data from various workshops (now including Peru and Panama) are available on the [Amphibian Ark portal](#)
- AArk staff are commenting on CITES changes proposed by DOW to limit trade in imperiled amphibians.
- Kevin Z is working with ASG/CI to identify amphibian species needing rescue on lands they have protected in an effort to better pair *in situ* and *ex situ* efforts under the ACAP.
- Zoological Society of San Diego Zoo is planning biosecurity meeting 16-18 Feb 2009.

Training & Other Capacity Building

- Training courses planned for:
 - Indonesia in early 2009
 - Brazil likely in March 2009 (with support from WAZA)
 - Nordens Ark in March 2009
 - Malaysia (Pt. II: advanced husbandry) in April 2009
 - Cameroon (tentative) in April 2009 (DWCT course)

- Sri Lanka in August 2009 (DWCT course)
- Plans for regional EAZA amphibian husbandry courses all over Europe are well developed. Those in Latvia/Russia, Netherlands/Belgium and Germany will take place before the end of 2008 while Scandinavian, Spanish and French courses are timetabled before the spring of 2009.
- Ron and Kevin Z networking with Smithsonian staff about their plans for a new international training course

Research Efforts

- Preliminary studies and masters projects testing the effect of dietary Vitamin D₃ and UV-B on amphibian health are being conducted at Antwerp Zoo. Although there has been considerable controversy about the need of amphibians for UV-B there have been no conclusive previous studies.
- To complement the AArk Science and Research web-publication on 'Larval Rearing' (in Reproduction and Larval rearing) a document has been produced on '[Interference and Exploitative Competition in amphibian larvae](#)' We thank the contribution by graphics artist [ÖZI'S COMIX STUDIO](#)
- Deadlines are set for the production of the "AArk *Ex-situ* Research Strategy" for mid-February 2009.
- Dr Rhiannon Lloyd, Zoological Society of London, has agreed to co-author the "AArk Biobanking Strategy and Protocols" with Dr Robert Browne. This combined effort should broaden and expedite the production of this important document. The ongoing biobanking activities and research at Antwerp Zoo and London Zoo will enable the establishment of a practical biobanking structure for presentation.

Communications/Development

- **The AArk 2008 YOTF campaign:**
 - As the awareness campaign comes to a close, the AArk staff would like to thank all of those who helped us get the campaign up and running: Jeffrey Bonner, Onnie Byers, EAZA, Fleishman-Hillard, Lissette Pavajeau, Lesley Dickie, Jörg Junhold, to name just a few key players. Many thanks to all, and we look forward to continuing to help you turn this awareness campaign into fruitful conservation action.
 - Kevin J produced [another fantastic quarterly newsletter](#)
 - Ron has worked with Laura Elizabeth Seydel on completing her book "Our Friends, the Frogs" which represents the first book written about the amphibian crisis for children, written by a child (Laura Elizabeth). Ron wrote a foreword for the book and supplied many images via photographers Ron Holt, Brad Wilson and others. The book will be available soon via Laura Elizabeth's website www.lenaturgirl.com 100% of the profits will be donated to Amphibian Ark.
 - Kevin Z working with journalist from the New Yorker on amphibian conservation story
- **The AArk website:**
 - **Online Petition:** An online petition urging politicians and parliaments of the world to commit resources for urgent global action is now available [online](#). The petition is available in English and German, and is currently being translated into Spanish. It is also available in [French](#) on the WAZA website. So far, **8,380** signatures have been received via the online petition.
 - **News From the Zoos:** The new page [News From the Zoos](#) is ready for all regional associations who want to post information about their YOTF activities. Currently there are links to each region's web page but those who want AArk to create a new page for them please send the information to [Kevin J](#). You can also send to Kevin J the [names of the regional representatives](#) for the YOTF campaign if not listed on the website.
 - **Visitors:** Site visitation has decreased just a wee bit this month.

Month	Visits	Month	Visits		
Oct-06	306	Jul-07	2,420	Jun-08	41,567
Nov-06	331	Sep-07	4,754	Jul-08	36,924
Dec-06	302	Oct-07	6,228	Aug-08	41,371
Jan-07	336	Nov-07	9,972	Sept-08	46,873
Feb-07	4,122	Dec-07	10,191	Oct-08	48,117
Mar-07	2,574	Jan-08	31,076	Nov-08	48,080
Apr-07	2,763	Feb-08	32,636	Dec-08	39,881
May-07	2,816	Mar-08	20,716	2008 total	482,705
Jun-07	3,361	April 08	47,600		
Aug-07	4,587	May-08	47,864		

- Network sites:** AArk has finally taken leadership of our network sites (Facebook, Myspace) from Fleishman-Hillard...thanks to them for carrying the torch! We are working now to consolidate accounts and update/polish the information available there. One new initiative here includes working with Frog Friendly Consulting to have the 1st ever Facebook campaign to save an entire species from extinction. Kevin Z also working with Caudata.org for an end of YOTF fundraiser to benefit AArk activities.
- Fundraising and sponsorship**
 - The \$5000 raised by the NABT auction/dinner with Jean-Michel Cousteau will likely go to support capacity-building efforts in Brazil
 - Kevin Z working on a deal for custom AArk credit cards (Visa Platinum) with proceeds going to AArk
 - Kevin Z is also working on a special Valentines Day (14 Feb 2009) auction with our friends at CharityBuzz.com
 - The Amphibian Project is selling a number of items on [their site](#) to raise money for Africam Safari and their program to save the large-crested toad *Ollotis crisata*.
 - Our wonderful friends at Froguts Inc. have very generously offered to give a free copy of their virtual dissection software to any interested AArk partner institutions. You can review the product at www.froguts.com, and request your copy from David Hughes, Co-Founder Froguts Inc. david@froguts.com.
 - Business partners selling items and donating a percentage of the profits to AArk can be found in our online [shop](#). AArk now has an [account with MissionFish](#) to accept donations from eBay sellers, and also with [Network For Good](#) and [Just Give](#). [Check out one of our new artist partners on eBay](#).
- From WAZA**
 - New *in situ* project WAZA-branded on November 30: 08027 - Management of amphibian habitats at Vechteaeu by Tierpark Nordhorn, Germany
 - Amphibian articles in WAZA News 2998/4: Year of the Frog 2008, Titicaca Water Frog – Saving the Giant Amphibian of Bolivia
 - YOTF Petition: Total of signatures at WAZA Office as of December 31: 54,931, of which collected by SAZARC: 14, 842; EAZA institutions (not counting VDZ): 14,831, VDZ institutions: 14,382 (13,613 of these were collected by institutions participating also in the EAZA Campaign), WAZA: 3,369; DTG institutions: 2,150; DWV institutions 2005, AZA institutions: 1676: DGHT: 883; VZP: 620.
 - Peter Janzen is planning to hold a meeting of the German-speaking *ex situ*-Group in

conjunction with the forthcoming ZOOKUNFT Conference

- Peter Dollinger will continue to coordinate the joint programme of German-speaking zoos and private holders. Contact: office@zoodirektoren.de

Travel and Workshop Schedule

This schedule changes frequently; contact the AARK Staff for further details.

Dates	Meeting Description	Location	AArk Staff, SC member, affiliates
January 2009			
7-8	Indian ACAP workshop	Mysore, INDIA	Molur
FEBRUARY 2009			
16-18	IMLS meeting	San Diego, CA, USA	Gagliardo, Gibson, Mendelson, Zippel
March 2009			
17	strategic planning workshop	Al Ain, UAE	all staff and Exec Committee
22-29	training course at Nordens Ark	SWEDEN	Garcia, Gibson, Linden, Zippel
TBD	prioritization workshop	BRAZIL	Gibson, Johnson
TBD	husbandry workshop	BRAZIL	TBD
APRIL 2009			
18-24	AZA Amphibian Biology & Management	Toledo, OH, USA	Gagliardo, Mendelson
TBD	species prioritization workshop	CAMEROON	Browne, Gibson
TBD	Advanced husbandry workshop	Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA	TBD
TBD	prioritization workshop	INDONESIA	Johnson
TBD	husbandry workshop	INDONESIA	McFadden
August 2009			
1-2	prioritization workshop	SRI LANKA	Gibson
3-11	husbandry workshop	SRI LANKA	Garcia, Gibson



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Acknowledgements 31 December 2008

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Up to \$50,000

Chester Zoo
Chicago Zoological Society
The Clorox Company
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG)
Saint Louis Zoo
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens
World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA)
Zoological Society London

Up to \$10,000

Allwetterzoo Münster
ARAZPA
James Bramsen
Denver Zoo
Fowler Printing & Graphics
JAZA
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo
The Living Desert
Zoologischer Garten Leipzig
Zoos South Australia

Up to \$5,000

Al Ain Zoo & Aquarium
American Frog Day 2007
BIAZA
Binder Park Zoological Society
Blue Planet Aquarium
Bristol Zoo Gardens
Caudata.org Donations Drive
John Clare
Kaysie Cox
Coen Deurloo
Cody Emerson
Marco Ferrigno
James Hang
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Sam Henry
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Neel Mehta
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Sue Williams
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo & Cleveland Zoological Society
Como Zoo
Disney's Animal Kingdom & Animal Programs
Galveston Chapter of the AAZK
International Herpetological Symposium
Marwell Zoological Park
Nordens Ark
North American Amphibian Conference
Ocean Park Conservation Foundation
Paignton Zoo
Philadelphia Zoo
Nick & Sue Pinder
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
San Diego Zoo
Sedgwick County Zoo
Singapore Zoo
Tokyo Zoo Conservation Fund
Toledo Zoo
Toronto Zoo
Wildlife Conservation Society
ZooAmerica & Ripley Entertainment
Zoo Zurich

Up to \$1,000

Barcelona Zoo
Birmingham Zoo & Birmingham Zoo Chapter AAZK
Brookfield Zoo AAZK
Buffalo Zoo
Cameron Park Zoo
Detroit AAZK
Digital Frog International
EAZA
Chandra Jessee
Leigh Ann Johnson

Kansas City Zoo
MARS Preservation Fund
Minnesota Zoo
Nashville Zoo
New Mexico Bio Park Society
Publishing Concepts, LLC- Missouri Meetings & Events
Ryan & Christiana Reed
Rochester Museum & Science Center
Royal Veterinary College
Zoological Society-London
Sacramento Zoo
San Francisco Zoological Society
Staten Island Zoo
Taipei Zoo
Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo
Universeum Gothenburg

Up to \$500

John Adams
Susan Anderson
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Kara Blakeslee
Darlene & Troy Bohanon
Quinn & Tate Boyd-Mullineaux
Richard Colwin Bryarly Jr.
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Chattanooga Zoo
Chesapeake Chapter AAZK
The Students at Child Craft Schools
Clyde Peeling's Reptiland
Coram Elementary School
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Meghan de Souza
Detroit Zoo
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ED's Fly Meat
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Stuart Haber in memory of Gus Kaufman
M. Buffy Hodgetts
Heribert Hofer
Kirstin Hunter
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Leon Zoo
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Luke, Mona, Heidi, & Meisha Lorge
JoAn & Ian MacBryde
Thomas Martin
Marian Van Eyk McCain
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Marianne & Mike Murphy
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Lisette Pavajeau
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Pueblo Zoological Society
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Claire Rosser
Julia Ruys
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St. John's College School & Ros Wombwell
Heather St. Louis
Noriaki Santo
Scovill Zoo AAZK
Jan Sealover
Kelly Seals
Remembering Nicole Seaman



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Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation
Henry Siu
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Diane Sutherland & Rodger
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Gloria Svampa
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Tremont Elementary School 2nd
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Univ. of Chicago Laboratory
Schools-5th Grade Frog Club
Remco van Poeke & Jetske de
Boer
Alistair Ward
Douglas Widener
In honor of Winona & Rupert
Wisconsin Wetlands Association
Jimmy Womack
Katherine Wright
Zoo New England
Zoo Salzburg

Up to \$100

Jason & Natalie Adkins for:
The Frank Family
The Goellner Families
The Kerly Family
The Kinsell Family
The Kiser Family
Alta Vista Elementary
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Up to \$50

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Melissa Wojtylak in honor of Grace Anne	Thomas Farkas	In memory of Patricia June Lambert	Dulcie Schmidt
Zachary Wright	In memory of FatFrog	Amber, Angus, & Noah Landry	Mike Shelton
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	Angela Ford		Dresden Skees-Gregory
	David Forrest		Jennifer Smith



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Meredith Mahoney
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***And in memory of pioneering
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John Daly***

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